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AVENAL ENERGY AFC

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4.0 FACILITY CLOSURE

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Facility closure can be temporary or permanent. Temporary closure would be for a period of time greater than the time required for normal maintenance, including overhaul or replacement of the combustion turbines. Causes for temporary closure could be a disruption in the supply of natural gas, or damage to the plant from earthquake, fire, storm or other natural acts. Permanent closure could be planned or unexpected and would consist of a cessation in operations with no intent to restart operations and could be due to age of the plant, damage to the plant beyond repair, economic conditions or other reasons. These two types of closure are discussed in the following sections.

4.2 UNEXPECTED TEMPORARY CESSATION OF OPERATIONS

For a temporary closure, where there is no release of hazardous materials, security of the facility will be deployed on a 24-hour basis, and the Commission will be notified. Depending on the length of shutdown, a contingency plan for the temporary cessation of operations will be implemented. The contingency plan will be conducted to assure conformance with all applicable LORS and protection of public health and safety and the environment. The plan, depending on the expected duration of the shutdown, may include the draining of chemicals from storage tanks and other equipment, and the safe shutdown of equipment. Wastes will be disposed of according to applicable LORS as discussed in Section 6.14 - Waste Management.

Where the temporary closure includes damage to the facility, and where there is a release or threatened release of hazardous materials into the environment, procedures will be followed that will be set forth in a Risk Management Plan (RMP) that is developed and described in Section 6.15 - Hazardous Materials Handling. Procedures include methods to control releases, notification of applicable authorities and the public, emergency response, and training for plant personnel in responding to and controlling releases of hazardous materials. Once the actual release is contained and cleaned up or the threatened release is controlled, temporary closure will proceed as previously described for a closure where there is no release of hazardous materials.

4.3 PLANNED PERMANENT OR PREMATURE CESSATION OF OPERATIONS

The anticipated life of the combined-cycle units that will be installed as part of the Project is at least 30 years. Continued operation beyond 30 years also may be viable, especially with good maintenance practices and selective replacement of equipment components. It also is possible that the facility could become economically non-competitive or encounter other hardships at a life less than 30 years, forcing early decommissioning. Future conditions that would affect the decommissioning decision are largely unknown. Decommissioning may range from "mothballing" to removal of all equipment and appurtenant facilities, depending on conditions at the time. Details of closure will be provided to the Commission when decommissioning is more imminent.

To assure that decommissioning is completed in a manner that protects public health and safety and is environmentally acceptable, a decommissioning plan will be submitted to the Commission for approval prior to commencement of decommissioning. The plan will include the following:

- Discussion of the proposed decommissioning activities for the facility and all appurtenant facilities constructed as part of the facility.
- Discussion of applicable LORS, local/regional plans, and conformance of the proposed decommissioning activities to the applicable LORS and local/regional plans.
- Discussion of the activities necessary to restore the Site if the plan requires removal of all equipment and appurtenant facilities.
- A discussion of decommissioning alternatives, other than complete restoration.
- Associated costs of the proposed decommissioning and the source of funds to pay for the decommissioning.

In general, decommissioning activities for the facility will attempt to maximize the recycling of facility components. Unused chemicals will be sold back to the suppliers or other purchasers or users. Equipment containing chemicals will be drained and shut down in a manner to assure public health and safety and protect the environment. Nonhazardous wastes will be collected and disposed of in appropriate landfills or waste collection facilities. Hazardous wastes will be disposed of according to applicable LORS. The Site will be secured 24 hours per day during the decommissioning activities.

4.4 UNEXPECTED PERMANENT CESSATION OF OPERATIONS

Unexpected plant closure could occur if, for example, an earthquake, fire, storm or other natural act caused damage to the plant beyond repair. In the event of unexpected closure, the closure procedure will follow the same plan described under Section 4.3 for planned permanent or premature cessation of operations.